



What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism

Dan Rather

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AN INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

“I find myself thinking deeply about what it means to love America, as I surely do.” —Dan Rather

At a moment of crisis over our national identity, venerated journalist Dan Rather has emerged as a voice of reason and integrity, reflecting on—and writing passionately about—what it means to be an American. Now, with this collection of original essays, he reminds us of the principles upon which the United States was founded. Looking at the freedoms that define us, from the vote to the press; the values that have transformed us, from empathy to inclusion to service; the institutions that sustain us, such as public education; and the traits that helped form our young country, such as the audacity to take on daunting challenges in science and medicine, Rather brings to bear his decades of experience on the frontlines of the world’s biggest stories. As a living witness to historical change, he offers up an intimate view of history, tracing where we have been in order to help us chart a way forward and heal our bitter divisions.

With a fundamental sense of hope, *What Unites Us* is the book to inspire conversation and listening, and to remind us all how we are, finally, one.

What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism Details

What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism

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Diane S ? says

I have watched this amazing man, journalist from my television set for many years. This man who had traveled extensively, seen much, reporting to the world what he has experienced. A man I deeply respect. Even though this was not an audio book I could imagine his voice reading his words. For me this was an amazing book, a book that covers so much, that put so eloquently the thoughts I have had since our election, more ably than I could.

He explains how far our country has come, where we have been. The rights all groups of people deserve. He feels as many of us do that we are going backwards. The very ideals that made this country strong from the beginning are the ones once again dividing us. How lucky we are to live in a country where we are granted so many freedoms, the power of dissent, the power to speak out against. Where journalism is heading, and where it has been. So much, a book I believe all should read. A book that my small review can not do justice to.

His thoughts are conveyed in chapters, he covers the importance of books, reading, staying informed, the arts, and so much more. I found this book so informative, a short book that makes an impact.

Cheri says

4.5 Stars

Ring the bells that still can ring

Forget your perfect offering

There is a crack in everything

That's how the light gets in.

Anthem – Leonard Cohen

”Unchecked nationalism leads to conflict and war. Unbridled patriotism can lead to the betterment of society. Patriotism is rooted in humility. Nationalism is rooted in arrogance.”

“Patriotism—active, constructive patriotism—takes work. It takes knowledge, engagement with those who are different from you, and fairness in law and opportunity. It takes coming together for good causes. This is one of the things I cherish most about the United States: We are a nation not only of dreamers, but also of fixers. We have looked at our land and people, and said, time and time again, ‘This is not good enough; we can be better.’”

Broken down into the following topics - FREEDOM, COMMUNITY, EXPLORATION, RESPONSIBILITY, and CHARACTER, each of those is broken down into essays on associated themes. Freedom, for instance includes: The Vote, Dissent, and The Press.

Rather covers the importance of reading, books, journalism, education, art, of being a part of the world beyond our neighborhood and so much more.

The most important thing I came away from reading this book was this: Hope. So, on this Thanksgiving Day, I'd like to thank you, Dan Rather, for reminding me of what we've all gone through together, the storms we've all weathered, the varied other experiences which we survived, and maybe we even came away a better American, and maybe also even a better citizen of the world. Let's hope.

“...we are bound together by a grand experiment in government, the rule of law, and common bonds of citizenship. This is what it means to be an American.”

It bears repeating: We can be better.

Many thanks to my goodreads friend Diane, whose review prompted me to read this. Please check out Diane's review: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Recommended

Many thanks, once again, to the Public Library system, and the many Librarians that manage, organize and keep it running, for the loan of this book!

Steve Sarner says

There are approximately 245 million adults in the United States. I wish all of them would read this book.

And if you were born after, say 1985ish, I definitely recommend you read Rather's stories. It illustrates that this country has been through a lot of rough times in the distant and recent past and has managed to press on.

Rather was on the front lines of some very turbulent history. His perspective provides reason and hope that we will get through this period too.

Steady.

(Thank you to Algonquin Books for the (signed!!!) copy of this wonderful book)

From Reader Review What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism for online ebook

From reader reviews:

Hester Crutchfield:

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Robert Beaubien:

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